Amendments to the Claims

1.   (Original)   A system for recovering backup data to restore an affected server in a computer network, comprising:

a storage device coupled to the computer network and operable to store data received from the network, wherein the storage device is associated with an address;

a dedicated backup storage device coupled to the computer network and operable to store backup data received from the storage device and to transfer the backup data to the affected server, wherein the dedicated backup storage device is associated with an address; and

software for loading an operating system onto the affected server; and

an address masking driver operable to prevent access to the address of the storage device by the operating system while the affected server is recovering backup data from the dedicated backup storage device.

2.   (New) The system of claim 1, wherein a bootable medium is used to boot the affected server, said medium comprising: the software for loading the operating system onto the affected server, and the address masking driver.

3.   (New) The system of claim 1,

wherein the backup storage device is associated with a LUN address; and

wherein the address masking driver masks LUN addresses.

4.   (New) The system of claim 1,

wherein the address masking driver is operable to issue a SCSI protocol inquiry; and

wherein the storage device and the dedicated backup storage device are operable to return a signal comprising peripheral type information in response to the SCSI protocol inquiry.

5.   (New) The system of claim 1,

wherein the operating system is operable to issue an inquiry to determine the addresses available on the computer network;

wherein the address masking driver is operable to respond to the address inquiry; and

wherein the address masking driver is operable to prevent access to the address of the storage device by not including the address of the storage device in the address masking driver's response to the address inquiry.

6.   (New) The system of claim 1,

wherein the operating system is operable to issue a write command to the storage device;

wherein the address masking driver is operable to intercept the write command;

wherein the address masking driver is operable to prevent access to the address of the storage device by preventing the execution of the write command.

7.   (New) The system of claim 2, wherein the bootable medium further comprises:

a host bus adapter driver operable to communicate with the storage device and the dedicated backup storage device; and

a disk driver operable to communicate with the host bus adapter driver to determine the address of the storage device.

8.   (New) The system of claim 7,

wherein the operating system is operable to issue an inquiry to the disk driver to determine the addresses available on the computer network;

wherein the address masking driver is operable to intercept and respond to the address inquiry intended for the disk driver; and

wherein the address masking driver is operable to prevent access to the address of the storage device by not including the address of the storage device in the address masking driver's response to the address inquiry.

9.   (New) The system of claim 7,

wherein the operating system is operable to issue an inquiry to the disk driver to determine the addresses available on the computer network;

wherein the host bus adapter driver is operable to masking addresses and receiving and executing instructions from the address masking driver;

wherein the address masking driver is operable to intercept the address inquiry intended for the disk driver; and

wherein the address masking driver is operable to prevent access to the address of the storage device by instructing the host bus adapter to mask the address of the storage device, whereby the disk driver will not return the address of the storage device in response to the address inquiry.

10.   (New) A method for recovering backup data to restore an affected server coupled to a computer network comprising a storage device and a dedicated backup storage device operable for transferring backup data to the affected server, wherein the storage device and the dedicated backup storage device are each associated with a separate address, comprising the steps of:

loading an address masking driver on the affected server, wherein the address masking driver is operable to prevent access to the address of the storage device;

loading an operating system on the affected server after the address masking driver has been loaded;

transferring the backup data from the dedicated backup storage device to the affected server; and

preventing access by the operating system to the address of the storage device until the affected server has finished receiving the backup data.

11. (New) The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of issuing an inquiry to determine the addresses available on the computer network, wherein the operating system is operable to issue the address inquiry;

wherein the step of preventing access by the operating system to the address of the storage device comprises the step of masking the address of the storage device in response to the address inquiry; and

wherein the address masking driver is operable to receive and respond to the address inquiry.

12. (New) The method of claim 10, further comprising the steps of:

issuing a SCSI protocol inquiry, wherein the address masking driver is operable to transmit a SCSI protocol inquiry; and

transmitting peripheral-type information in response to the SCSI inquiry, wherein the storage device and the dedicated backup storage device are operable to receive the SCSI protocol inquiry and respond to the SCSI protocol inquiry.

13. (New) The method of claim 10,

further comprising the step of issuing a write command to the storage device, wherein the operating system is operable to issue a write command to the storage device;

wherein the step of preventing access by the operating system to the address of the storage device comprises the step of preventing the execution of the write command; and

wherein the address masking driver is operable to receive the write command and to prevent the execution of the write command.

14. (New) The method of claim 10, further comprising the steps of:

loading a host bus adapter driver operable to communicate with the storage device and the dedicated backup storage device, wherein the host bus adapter driver loads before the address masking driver; and

loading a disk driver operable to communicate with the host bus adapter driver to determine the address of the storage device, wherein the disk driver loads after the host bus adapter driver and before the address masking driver.

15.   (New) The method of claim 14, wherein the step of loading the address masking driver and the operating system is preceded by the steps of:

providing a bootable medium operable for booting the affected server, wherein the bootable medium comprises;

the host bus adapter driver;

the disk driver;

the address masking driver; and

software suitable for loading the operating system onto the affected server; and

booting the affected server with the bootable medium.

16.   (New) The method of claim 14, further comprising the step of:

issuing an inquiry to the disk driver to determine the addresses available on the computer network, wherein the operating system is operable to issue the address inquiry;

wherein the step of preventing access by the operating system to the address of the storage device comprises the step of masking the address of the storage device in response to the address inquiry; and

wherein the address masking driver is operable to intercept and respond to the address inquiry intended for the disk driver.

17.   (New) The method of claim 14, further comprising the step of issuing an inquiry to the disk driver to determine the addresses available on the computer network,

wherein the operating system is operable to issue the address inquiry and the disk driver is operable to receive and respond to the address inquiry; and

wherein the step of preventing access by the operating system to the address of the storage device comprises the step of instructing the host bus adapter card to mask the address of the storage device, whereby the disk driver will not return the address of the storage device in response to the address inquiry, and

wherein the host bus adapter driver is operable to masking addresses and receiving and executing instructions from the address masking driver; and

wherein the address masking driver is operable to intercept the address inquiry intended for the disk driver.

18.   (New) A bootable medium suitable for booting an affected server for the purpose of initiating a transfer of backup data from a dedicated backup storage device, wherein the affected server and the dedicated backup storage device are coupled to a computer network that comprises a storage device, wherein the dedicated backup storage device and the storage device each have an associated address, comprising:

software suitable for loading an operating system onto the affected server;

an address masking driver operable to prevent access to the address of the storage device by the operating system until the affected server has finished recovering the backup data.

19.   (New) The bootable medium of claim 18, further comprising a host bus adapter driver operable to communicate with the storage device and the dedicated backup storage device.

20.   (New) The bootable medium of claim 18, further comprising a disk driver operable to communicate with the host bus adapter driver to determine the address of the storage

device, wherein the host bus adapter driver is operable to communicate with the address masking driver to prevent access to the address of the storage device.